



University of Toronto

John R.G. Challis, DSc, FRSC
Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost

January 6th, 2004

To: Business Board

From: Professor John R.G. Challis

Re: Meeting of January 17th, 2005

Agenda Item: 5(a)

Item Identification: Annual Report 2003-04 and Plans 2004-05

Sponsor: John R.G. Challis

Jurisdiction: Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost

Previous Action: The Annual Report of the Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost for 2002-03 with plans for 2003-04 was on the Business Board Agenda for the January 19th, 2004 meeting, but was not presented due to unexpected agenda priority rescheduling by the Business Board.

Action Sought: Report for Information

Highlights:

- The University of Toronto continues to rank #1 in federal granting council payments, major research prizes and honours, and support from the federal and provincial research and infrastructure programs.
- Total research funds awarded to the University of Toronto and affiliated hospitals in fiscal 2002-03 were \$563 million. Approximately 50% of total research funding is awarded to colleagues at affiliated teaching hospitals. Approximately 70% of total research funding is awarded to colleagues in the Faculty of Medicine (including the affiliated teaching hospitals). Funding from the tri-councils (CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC) comprised 32% of the total research awards.

- Colleagues at the University of Toronto continue to receive a disproportionate share of national and international scholarly awards, prizes and honours. Seven colleagues joined the list of the 250 most highly cited researchers over the last 20 years. There were 11 colleagues elected to the Royal Society of Canada, 2 elected to the Royal Society (London) and 3 colleagues elected to the National Academy of Sciences.
- The University of Toronto ranks very highly in numbers of publications and numbers of citations indexed by the Institute for Scientific Information. In Health Sciences we rank #1 in both categories amongst public institutions. We rank second to Harvard in number of publications when private institutions are included, and third behind Harvard and Johns Hopkins in numbers of citations. We continue to develop better performance indicators to characterize the research enterprise at the University of Toronto.
- Our plans for 2004-05 may be characterized as promoting Differentiation, Advocacy, Facilitation and Integration. We will work hard with major faculties and the Toronto Regional Research Alliance to establish one or more NRC Institutes in Toronto. We are actively involved in advocacy efforts concerning the new Ontario Research Fund, the review of the Canada Research Chairs and the Indirect Costs program. We continue to lobby for increased support for each of these programs and for the tri-councils. We will develop a new series of research options for undergraduates available from the moment of acceptance through to graduation that complements formal research courses. We will continue to develop new advocacy efforts, promote integration across campuses and between faculties as well as internationally. We shall develop a more user-friendly website, and communications directives in relation to research working in conjunction with other Vice-Presidential portfolios to drive the “Stepping Up” process. We shall begin implementation of the recommendations of the Manley Review of Commercialization, publicize and profile our innovation and commercialization activities and work closely with the city, with partner hospitals, and through opportunities afforded by developments such as MaRS to develop a culture of disclosure and innovation.